



INFANT JESUS ACADEMY

CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

OLD ANWAI ROAD,
OPPOSITE GOVT. HOUSE,
P.O.BOX 148, ASABA,
DELTA STATE.

Email: enquiries@ijaasaba.com
Website: www.ijaasaba.com

Term 1 2023/2024



Dear parents and carers

After a busy and highly productive Term 1, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our first newsletter of the academic year 2023/24. A special welcome to parents, carers and families who joined our school community in September.

opportunity for IJA learners to develop skills that set them out from their peers across the world and gain experience that helps them better understand themselves within the context of their local, national and international communities.

On Saturday 14 October 2023, our boys' football team played a friendly match with St Patrick's College in their school field. While the match ended up in favour of St Patrick's College, our boys did a wonderful job.



We participated in the 2023 Delta State Principal's Cup organized by Zenith Bank PLC and on 19 October 2023. We had our first match with Master Care International School, where the match ended in favour of Mater Care International School Asaba.

17 Year 8 learners registered and participated in the Kellogg's Essay Competition. The results of the competition are yet to be published.

18 learners registered and participated in the UBA National Essay Competition 2023 with the topic "Will Artificial Intelligence take over Human Intelligence? What should students do to ensure AI doesn't override but enhances their ability to learn through research?" We eagerly await the results of this competition.



At the start of the academic year, we outlined six priorities for our continued improvement, as a school. First among them is: "To prioritize our learners spiritual, moral, social and cultural development." This is because, at IJA, we want each of our young people to grow into people whose God-consciousness and sense of being a small part of a bigger whole, whose commitment to speaking and upholding the truth, whose sense of our interconnectedness as a human race, and whose respect for the histories, narratives and present-day expectations and ways of doing things of the communities of which they are part, are second to none.

This has translated into many developments since our last newsletter (that of Term 3 in the academic year 2022/23); and I am delighted to share the writing of this newsletter with some of the staff who have been strategically responsible for steering them.

Co-curricular Life



On Wednesday 27 September 2023, the Infant Jesus Academy was invited to participate in the World Tourism Day celebration at the Amphitheater, Delta State Film Village, Anwai, Delta State.

On Wednesday 4 October 2023, we launched the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in our school. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a global framework for non-formal education and learning, which challenges young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their world, the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (known in Nigeria as the "International Award for Young People Nigeria"), is a fantastic



On Saturday 18 November 2023, the whole school had a trip to the Nelson Mandela Gardens & Resort at the Asaba Airport, for Champs and Pencils Green Arts Festival in commemoration of 2023 World Children's Day. Our young people learned new concepts, interacted with other learners from different schools, had a tour of the zoo and also visited the museum. Four of our learners participated in a nature drawing competition and were issued a certificate of participation.

In addition to day and boarding learners both using the school gym, our co-curricular offer has continued to gain strength this Term. A number of learners signed up for basketball training with our school coach at the Squash Club Asaba; while others were trained on-site by our dance coach. Yet others took part in swimming classes, held at the Nelrose Hotel in Asaba.



On Wednesday 19 October 2023, the Red Cross State Divisional Chairman and Secretary both visited the IJA Red Cross Club. They encouraged our learners to be serious with Red Cross activities and to register as members of the organization.

On Wednesday 29 November 2023, the Rotary Club of Asaba Metropolitan District 9141 visited our Interact Club. They fellowshiped with us and participated in some Interact activities with our learners.

Mrs Lena EGBUFOR
Lead Practitioner (Co-curricular & House System)



Behaviour for Learning

This term has recorded improvement in terms of punctuality and early resumption with learners being awarded R20 reward points. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have worked tirelessly to ensure learners do not miss out on this offer. We expect to hit a 100% by next term. Learners must be back in school on Monday 8

January 2024 (day) and Sunday 7 January 2024 (boarding), for this to happen.

We also recorded, for the first time since introducing the reward and sanction system, 14 learners crossing the 100 reward point barrier in just one term. By name, these learners are; Chidinma ADIGWE, Philip AGUNYA, Kamsiyochukwu CHIBUZO, Treasure OSIA, Vincent CHINYELUBA, Naomi AYOMOH, Franklin EZE, Francess EMEFIENE, Great EKEBUIKE, Excel UKPEBOR, Michelle AZOMOKWU, Stephanie OJI, Kayla CHIKA and Jessica OKONYE. This is excellent and is a point of real celebration. We were excited to recognize these learners' achievements by celebrating them in our Monday SLT assembly and by giving them each a special treat.

Mr Raymond ONOKPITE
Associate Assistant Principal

IJA Goes Solar!



Following some disruptions to our electricity supply in the first half term, and the impact these had upon the day-to-day life of our school community, we are delighted to advise you that IJA has now closed the final stages of our multi-million Naira upgrade to solar power. This means that, IJA is now equipped with three sources of power: our connection to the 33 KVA line, our newly-commissioned 100KVA generator with a 22KVA generator backup, and solar power.

These are exciting times for IJA, not least because of the extra comfort this upgrade will lend to learners and because of the possibilities it now creates for us to further expand our technological capabilities as a school. We are certainly one of the few schools you will now find with solar power!

We appreciate the patience our learners and families have shown while this work has been underway.

Barr Ayo FASIKA
Operations Manager



Day School Review

Many of you will know that I became unwell just before the close of the last academic year and, after nine weeks of being in and out of hospitals and doctors' offices in both Asaba and Lagos, I was eventually forced, in September, to return to the UK to seek medical attention there. Whilst the timing of my travel was designed to ensure I completed as much work as I could in Asaba (including, and especially receiving our new and returning learners at the start of the new academic year), the nature of both my condition and the prescription medication I was using until recently, meant that I have been unable to communicate with you, as I would have wanted, until recently. I want therefore to take this newsletter as my opportunity to thank all parents and carers who took part in the 2023 review of our Day School Policy for their participation. As a result of your input, together with that of other stakeholders, the requirement that day school learners wear ID cards to school has been repealed and parental permissions concerning how day school learners are to make their way to and from school are now recorded. It has also been truly delightful to see and hear learners sharing in one integrated school experience from 8am until the close of school each day.



Here we grow again...

I also want to thank you for the fantastic job you have been doing – and will no doubt continue doing – to spread the word about IJA as a community genuinely committed to doing what is right for our young people. The number of learners joining the school in September reached a 10-year record; and we know very well that this rate of growth can be separated neither from the fact that our young ones are our best advertisement, nor the fact that, as parents and carers, you are our chief advocates.

School Fees

School fees assist us in the general running of the school, in maintenance and in carrying out all essential repairs before and during the term.

For returning learners in the boarding school, as well as learners in the day school, the breakdown of the Term 2 school fees for 2023/24 is as follows:

| Boarding School | Returning Learners ₦ | Day School | Returning Learners ₦ |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Tuition/Boarding | 330,000 | Tuition | 160,000 |
| Maintenance | 25,000 | Maintenance | 15,000 |
| ICT fees | 15,000 | ICT fees | 15,000 |
| End of year party | 10,000 | End of year party | 10,000 |
| Total | 380,000 | Total | 200,000 |

Concessions

Any parent desiring concessions must make their request before resumption by completing the Application for Concessional School Fees through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/MFReezPGiE>. If approved, these parents will be required to bring a post-dated cheque for the balance upon resumption which will be presented at the bank upon expiration of the concession window. Also, you will be required to sign an undertaking at the Business & Finance Department before collecting clearance. This is a requirement for admission into the school for parents who are unable to pay their fees in full before resumption.

Applications for Term 2 close on Friday 29 December 2023, at 6:00pm. This is to enable us to process the applications received and give feedback to parents before resumption. We are unable to process any request not made in this way; and we are likewise unable to process any requests for Term 2 after this date.



Fees for learners in Years 9 and 12

The second instalment of school fees for learners in examination classes (Years 9 and 12) must be paid upon resumption for Term 2.

The Second instalment of school fees to be paid for these learners is:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Year 9 | 588,500 |
| Year 12 | 588,500 |

Learners who made termly school fees payment for Term 1 will be expected to pay for Terms 2 and 3 upon resumption.

Additionally, learners in examination classes who have previously not made payment for external exam and other fees are expected to do so upon resumption for Term 2, to enable registration for the examinations.

The table below shows the cost of external examinations for which registration is required:

| S/N | Description | Year 9 (₦) | Year 12 (₦) |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Delta State BECE, NECO BECE | 80,000 | - |
| 2 | NECO SSCE & WASSCE | - | 120,000 |
| 3 | JAMB | - | 50,000 |
| 4 | Extension Classes | 40,000 | 50,000 |
| 5 | Graduation fees | - | 50,000 |
| | Sub total | 120,000 | 270,000 |
| 6 | Cambridge CheckPoint (excluding cost of Books) | 250,000 | |
| 7 | Cambridge IGCSE (5 subjects minimum , excluding the cost of Books) and ₦120,000 for additional subjects . | | 800,000 |
| | Grand total | 370,000 | 1,070,000 |

Pocket Money Balances

Parents and carers should confirm their child(ren)'s pocket money balances with the Business & Finance Department before school resumes so that any deficit balances can be cleared. We do not wish to send learners home for the non-payment of school fees or other balances, as this will be disruptive to their learning. It is imperative, therefore, that this matter is addressed within the timescales outlined and in the ways advised.

Shuttle Bus

Parents and carers of day learners wishing to have the IJA school bus pick up and drop off their child(ren) daily can subscribe to our shuttle bus service at a termly rate of N100,000, subject to distance and/or other relevant factors. This sum should be paid within two weeks of Term 2 commencing.



Method of Payment

Fees and balances can be paid by any of the following methods:

- Bank draft • Bank transfer
- Cash deposit at the bank • Standing order

The school bank account number is:

Account Name: INFANT JESUS ACADEMY LTD

Account Number: 1016239381

Bank: UBA BANK (for all fees)

Evidence of Payment

Evidence of payment must be presented to the Business Manager, Mr Chukuka OGUNSUYI, before receipts can be issued. Admissible evidence includes tellers, alert notifications, and any other evidence providing confirmation that is verifiable with the bank. Parents and carers wishing to present these electronically may do so, by emailing the Business Manager at c.ogunsuyi@ijaasaba.com, or via WhatsApp on 08134 19 07 78. Parents and carers are reminded that presenting cheques that cannot be paid due to insufficient funds is a crime attracting stiff legal penalties.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Lunchtime arrangements are the same for day and boarding learners. However, lunch is not included in the fees paid for day learners and is available, at additional cost, upon request by parents and carers.

Mr Chukuka OGUNSUYI

Business Manager



Curriculum Information

Extra Lessons

Parents and carers intending to register their child(ren) for extra lessons within the coming term can pay the sum of **N20,000 per subject** into the school accounts, and thereafter inform the Business Manager about the payment(s) made, for easy and prompt reconciliation. Once payment is made, parents and carers are also asked to notify the Vice Principal, Mr ACHEKA Michael. This to ensure that your child is assigned the appropriate subject teacher and that this happens on time. Mr Acheka can be contacted on 07056 98 25 62 (WhatsApp) or by email at m.acheka@ijaasaba.com, with your child's name and the subject(s) requested. Parents and carers are advised to use school reports to help them identify subjects in which any extra lessons may be needed.

Holiday Assignments

Learners have been given holiday assignments via ClassCharts. These were released to both learners and parents, on their respective logins, on **Friday 15 December 2023**. Parents and carers are encouraged to support their child(ren) in ensuring these assignments are given the necessary attention.

Assignments form part of our continuous assessment grading system. They are to be completed at home and submitted to the various subject teachers upon returning to school in January.

Resumption

Term 2 of the 2023/2024 academic year will commence on Monday 8 January 2024. Boarding learners are to return to the school on Sunday 7 January 2024.

Mr ACHEKA Michael
Vice Principal



Important Information: co-curricular activities

At the recent Red Cross visit, learners were advised to be a full registered members, and as part of the Red Cross policy, parents and carers are asked to assist their child(ren) in completing the following process:

1. Sign a parental consent and return same to the school club patron.
2. Register their child(ren) on the official database using www.redcrossnigeria.org/join.
3. Make payment for complete Red Cross uniform of N10,000. More information on this will come to you in due course.

Sports

Starting from next term, learners are advised to come to the school with their individual badminton rackets and skipping rope for sporting activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We have finally formed the school female soccer team with 20 female learners across the year groups and they have been advised to come to school with their soccer boots when returning for Term 2.

Learners who wish to participate in swimming, Taekwondo, dance, basketball and foreign languages classes are advised to make payment on or before the first day of resumption to the Business Manager, Mr Chukuka OGUNSUYI.

Mrs Lena EGBUFOR
Lead Practitioner (Co-curricular & House System)



In Closing...

We were blessed, on Wednesday 13 December, to have our first service of ‘Nine Lessons & Carols’ with our new chaplaincy team, headed by the Revd Father Israel DIBIA. We are grateful to our chaplains for the wonderful effort they put into the event, and we are proud of how they, our learners and our staff all worked together so beautifully to make the event the great success that it was. It was also fantastic to see so many of our parents and carers in attendance!

Now, as we pause for this Christmas break, I encourage our entire school community to reflect upon the love that unites us in its command of our collective and individual attention, adoration, and worship of the Christ Child, its most delicate expression. It is my prayer that this love would seep out of the manger, into our relationships with our fellow human beings – friend and foe, people we like and those of whom we are not so fond, people who treat us fairly and those who spitefully use us, those who honour us and those who dishonour us, those who bless us and those who shortchange us – until the love that drove the Son of God to empty Himself (Philippians 2:7) and be born in the lowly form of this Child, is seen and heard among us at every turn.

Indeed, it is my prayer that, when we return to school in January, we return with a renewed commitment to serve Christ by serving each other in the love by which His own servanthood of mankind was driven. I am sure that, in doing so, we will return to see our school – and the learners for whom we exist – reach even higher heights and experience even greater successes.

Have a peaceful Christmas!

I greet you in divine love,

The Most Revd
Dr Otis V. WILKS CMgr FCMI, FCCT, FRSA
Principal

